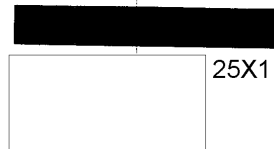


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PHOOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**SOVIET
CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS (S)**

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SOVIET CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS (S)

ABSTRACT

1. (TSR) This report is an imagery-derived analysis of Soviet nondivisional construction battalions. The report emphasizes the unusual table of organization and equipment and the function of the construction battalion as distinguished from other nondivisional engineering units. This report includes two annotated photographs, a map, and a table.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

2. (TSR) Soviet construction battalions are distinct from other Soviet engineering units in both mission and table of organization and equipment (TO&E). The primary mission of the battalion is road and bridge building. The TO&E indicates that many other major engineering missions are assigned, including lumber preparation, ditch and culvert construction, structural construction, and minefield laying and breaching. These missions and the TO&E will be discussed throughout the report.

3. (TSR) A wide range of Soviet engineering capabilities are maintained at the divisional and nondivisional command level. At both command levels, three general types of capabilities exist—assault crossing, ponton bridging, and construction. The Soviet construction battalion is organized at the nondivisional level.

4. (TSR) Assault crossing, ponton bridging, and construction capabilities can be either independent or integrated depending on the mission of their parent organization (Front, Army/Corps, or Division). All three capabilities are found in the largest Soviet engineering unit, the engineering regiment/brigade, and are subordinated as the assault-crossing battalion, the ponton bridge regiment, and the construction battalion.

5. (TSR) Independent assault-crossing battalions, ponton bridge regiments, and construction battalions are subordinate to the Army/Corps command. The construction battalion, whether subordinate to an engineering regiment/brigade or independent, appears to be organized the same. This report covers only the independent construction battalions.

6. (TSR) Twenty-six independent Soviet construction battalions have been identified throughout the Warsaw Pact area (Figure 1 and Table 1). Twenty-three are in 13 of the 16 Soviet military districts (MD), and one is in the Central Group of Forces (CGF) Czechoslovakia (Figure 1). Construction battalions have not been identified in the Transcaucasus, Turkestan, or Volga MDs, Northern Group of Forces, Southern Group of Forces, or Mongolia. 25X1

7. (TSR) Most of the 26 independent construction battalions are housed at installations which contain other military units. An example of an exception to this is Tapa Army Barracks and Engineering School West AL-1 in the Baltic MD. Tapa AL-1 appears to be an engineering training school, but it contains enough equipment to form a construction battalion. An entire construction battalion is generally housed at the same installation. A few battalions are split between installations but are always in the same town.

8. (TSR) The level of activity at these installations was low and did not usually vary. Most of the equipment usually is kept in reserve storage. This could indicate that most units are not fully manned but will receive reservists when mobilized.

9. (TSR) Unusual storage and training areas were identified at various installations. The function of these areas indicated specific subunit missions, probably at the company level (Figure 2). Lumber mill/lumber storage areas indicate a lumber preparations mission, and concrete culvert section storage indicates a drainage control mission. Training areas usually include an engineering obstacle course and mockups for training in pile-driver operation, culvert emplacement, shelter/command post construction (indicating a structural construction mission), and bridge abutment construction. The combination of areas varies from installation to installation. The variation is probably based on geographic location and mission as well as the commanders preferences and the training needs of the individual construction battalion.

10. (TSR) Reserve units in the Soviet Union usually do not receive new or upgraded equipment. Construction battalions, however, have received new equipment in place of old equipment. Most battalions are now equipped with truck-mounted scissors bridges (TMM) in place of the older treadway bridges (KMM). In some units the minelayers PMR-3 have been replaced or supplemented by the newer armored tracked minelayer (GMZ), and some units have received the armored engineer tractor (IMR).

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11. (TSR) The TO&E varies from unit to unit for many of the same reasons that activity levels are low. The terrain, mission requirements, reserve status, and covered storage all affect the observed TO&E of the construction battalion. The major types of equipment observed at all installations include dozers (tracked and wheeled), graders, scrapers, ditchers, trenchers, gap crossing vehicles, crane shovels, gang saws, and pile drivers. Certain models of equipment seem to be identification signatures such as gang saws (LRV), crane shovels (E-305V), ditcher dozers (BTM and MDK-2), KMM or TMM, and DET dozers. Other types of miscellaneous equipment that may be present in lesser amounts include signal vehicles, cargo trucks, cargo trailers, maintenance vans, cranes, lowboy trailers, power boats, K-61 tracked amphibians, and generator trailers.

12. (TSR) A comparison of Kandalaksha Tactical SSM Barracks and Storage AL-5 and Ussuriysk Army Barracks West AL-3 shows how the observed TO&E can vary from unit to unit because of covered storage (Figures 3 and 4). Kandalaksha AL-5 in the Leningrad MD contains vehicle storage sheds with a capacity of at least 380 vehicles. Usually 135 vehicles are observed in open storage. Ussuriysk AL-3 in the Far East MD contains covered vehicle storage for only 125

Table 1. Independent Soviet Construction Battalions
(Keyed to Figure 1)

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF

| Item | Installation Name | Geographic Coordinates | BE No | Category | MD |
|------|--|--|-------|----------|----------------------|
| 1 | Kandalaksha TAC SSM Bks and Stor AL-5 | 67-11-52N 032-19-44E | | | Leningrad |
| 2 | Vyborg Army Bks Seleznevo AL-6 | 60-44-49N 028-36-47E | | | Leningrad* |
| 3 | Kotly Army Bks AL-1 | 59-36-00N 028-46-40E | | | Leningrad |
| 4 | Tapa Army Bks A Engr Sch W AL-1 | 59-15-18N 025-56-20E | | | Baltic |
| 5 | Mamonovo Army Bks N AL-2 | 54-28-42N 019-57-15E | | | Baltic |
| 6 | Drogobych Army Bks AL-1 and Drogobych Veh Park | 49-20-32N 023-3017E 49-21-10N 023-31-02E | | | Carpathian** |
| 7 | Dubossary Army Bks Boshoy Fontan AL-1 | 47-15-55N 029-09-50E | | | Odessa |
| 8 | Novograd-Volynskiy Army Bks AL-2 | 50-35-29N 027-39-04E | | | Carpathian |
| 9 | Radomyshl Prob Engr Bks | 50-29-48N 029-13-24E | | | Kiev |
| 10 | Mogilev Army Bks Pashkovo AL-5 | 53-56-22N 030-16-13E | | | Belorussia*** |
| 11 | Shostka Army Bks AL-1 and Shostka Engr Parking | 51-52-08N 033-27-30E 51-50-05N 033-27-45E | | | Kiev** |
| 12 | Gorkiy Army Bks NW AL-12 | 56-23-30N 043-42-50E | | | Moscow*** |
| 13 | Kavkazskaya Army Bks AL-1 | 45-26-00N 040-39-45E | | | North Caucasus |
| 14 | Alapayevsk Army Bks AL-1 | 57-50-42N 061-39-20E | | | Ural |
| 15 | Dushanbe Army Bks AL-2/Hq MRD | 38-34-36N 068-46-41E | | | Central Asian |
| 16 | Frunze Army Bks AL-4 | 42-53-40N 074-34-12E | | | Central Asian |
| 17 | Semipalatinsk Army Bks AL-2 | 50-23-10N 080-16-40E | | | Central Asian |
| 18 | Novosibirsk Army Bks N AL-7 | 55-07-40N 082-54-40E | | | Siberian |
| 19 | Ulan-Ude Army Hq AL-1 | 51-53-50N 107-31-46E | | | Transbaikal |
| 20 | Borzya Army Hq AL-1 | 50-22-45N 116-30-55E | | | Transbaikal |
| 21 | Khabarovsk Mil Instl SW | 48-21-32N 135-02-30E | | | Far East |
| 22 | Chernyshevka Army Bks AL-1/ Res Eq Stor | 44-12-08N 133-09-20E | | | Far East |
| 23 | Ussuriysk Army Bks W AL-3 | 43-47-33N 131-55-54E | | | Far East |
| | | | | | |
| 26 | Kurivody Army Bks Bela 224 | 50-31-35N 014-46-30E | | | Czechoslovakia (CGF) |

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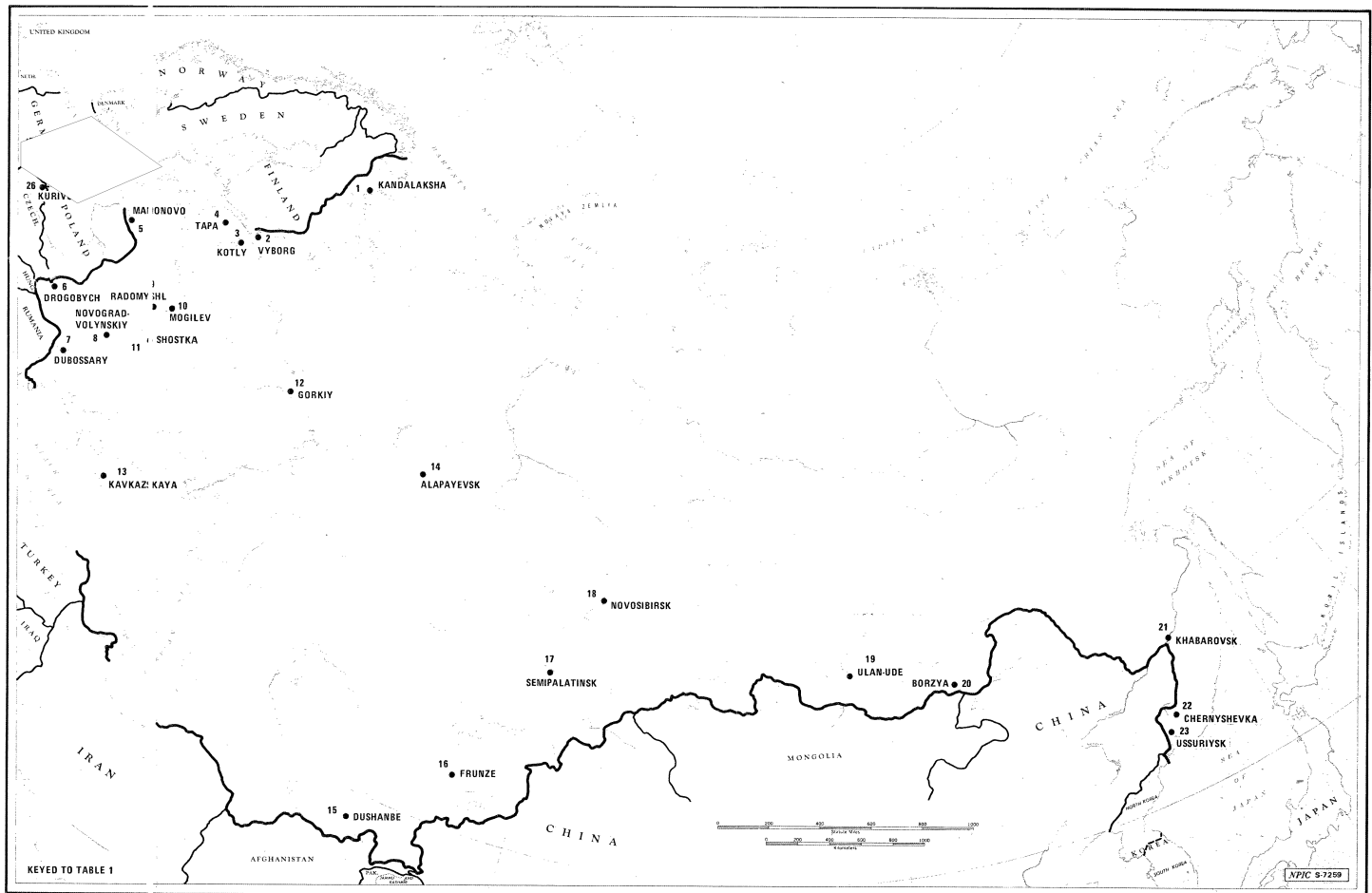


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF SOVIET CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS

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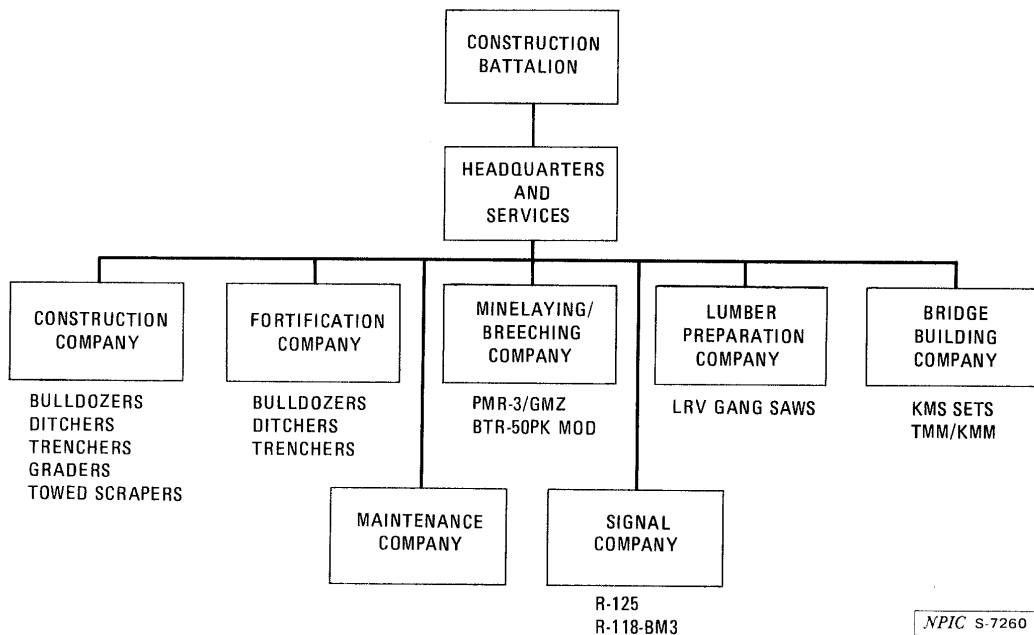


FIGURE 2. POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION STRUCTURE

vehicles, and at least 400 vehicles are usually in open storage. Both units have an overall capacity of 500 to 550 vehicles; however, a more complete TO&E can be obtained from Ussuriysk AL-3 because of the absence of covered vehicle storage. Construction battalion signatures at Ussuriysk AL-3 include mockups of bridge abutments, shelter/command posts, and the presence of LRVs, E-305Vs, pile drivers (KMS), MDK-2s, TMMs, graders, scrapers, IMRs, and GMZs.

CONCLUSION

13. (TSR) Soviet construction battalions are distinct in both TO&E and mission from other Soviet divisional and nondivisional engineering units. Their primary mission is road and bridge building with secondary missions of shelter/command post construction and minefield laying/breeching. The battalion may be subordinate to the engineering regiment/brigade at the Front level but has an Army/Corp subordination when independently deployed. These units are mostly in reserve storage to be completely manned by reservists in the event of mobilization.

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All available KEYHOLE imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report.

MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Various Sheets, scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

REQUIREMENT

Project 130083NG

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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